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**CHESTER, GLASGOW, MILES CITY, & PONDERA COUNTY PROJECTS  
AWARDED \$200,000 IN TOURISM “BED TAX” GRANTS**

Helena, MT—October 19, 2004 - The Valley Event Center in Glasgow, Conrad’s Pondera County Museum, Liberty Village Arts Center & Gallery in Chester, and Miles City’s Custer County Art & Heritage Center have been awarded a total of \$200,000 from the Department of Commerce’s Tourism Infrastructure Investment Program (TIIP) “bed tax” grant funds to assist in the completion of tourism-related facility improvements.

Montana Department of Commerce Director Mark Simonich approved the TIIP grant funding for the four tourism-related projects following recommendations from the Department of Commerce Montana Promotion Division staff and the state’s Tourism Advisory Council. The four TIIP grant recipients were selected from 27 applications submitted for funding to the Commerce Department.

“The investment of tourism ‘bed tax’ funds into these four projects will leverage community and area dollars, create and support local construction and service industry jobs, and add to Montana’s appeal as a visitor destination, something that helps the entire state,” Simonich said in approving the TIIP grant awards.

Since 1995, TIIP grants have provided over \$2 million in tourism “bed tax” funds to 44 projects in 32 Montana communities. Over that period, TIIP grants have assisted in the development of \$24 million in tourism-related projects.

TIIP grants funds are provided by the state’s 4 percent tourism “bed tax” which is assessed on the lodging price of all accommodations across Montana, including campgrounds. The grants are awarded through a competitive process and require a \$1 local match for every \$2 provided by grant funds. The four 2004 TIIP grant awards and a summary of the 40 previous TIIP funded projects are listed on the attached pages.

**\*\*\*Editors: This press release is available on Travel Montana’s Intranet website  
<[travelmontana.state.mt.us](http://travelmontana.state.mt.us)> under News & Updates, press release section\*\*\***

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**MONTANA COMMERCE DEPARTMENT  
TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIIP)  
1995-2004 TIIP GRANT AWARD SUMMARY**

**2004 Grant Awards: \$200,000**

- \$48,360      Custer County Art & Heritage Center, Pump House Renovation, (Miles City): Renovation of the historic Municipal Waterworks Building that houses the public benefit art museum to expand exhibit space and repair the roof, windows and doors.
- \$109,740      HiLine Youth Hockey Association, Inc., Valley Event Center, (Glasgow): Complete construction of the \$1.1 million Valley Event Center in Glasgow to serve as a multi-use facility for youth hockey as well as local and regional events and activities for residents and visitors.
- \$20,500      Liberty Village Arts Center & Gallery, Roof & Siding Project, (Chester): Place new roofing and siding on former St. Mary's Catholic Church building which serves as the community's art center and gallery facility.
- \$21,400      Pondera History Association, Pondera County Museum, (Conrad): Renovate museum building to create space for a Transportation Exhibit Area. Renovations include building and finishing walls, insulation, electrical, ventilation and replacement/removal of some existing structures.

**2003 Grant Awards: \$200,000**

- \$25,000      Beartooth Nature Center, Wildlife Access Project, (Red Lodge): Complete a paved walking path to provide visitor and handicapped access throughout the Center as part of an extensive \$102,386 landscaping upgrade.
- \$50,000      Great Falls Baseball Foundation, Inc., Legion Park Improvements,

(Great Falls): A major renovation of the Legion Park facility to update utilities, comply with building and safety codes and ADA requirements, and making the facility more visitor/audience friendly. Estimated cost of this phase of the project is over \$1.4 million.

- \$69,000 Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center, “Bears: Imagination & Reality” Exhibit Building and Installation, (West Yellowstone): A \$200,000 building renovation and exhibit installation project involving construction, fencing, grounds preparation, and installation of the exhibit in a 5,000-6,000 square foot display area.
- \$20,000 International Wildlife Film Festival & Media Center, Full Public Access Facility Project, (Missoula): Install handicap access to second floor of IWFF & Media Center Building’s EarthVision archives, install handicap access view stations, automatic doors on main floor and increased lighting for safety in Yellowstone Theatre. Total project cost is estimated at \$32,178.85.
- \$36,000 Mission Valley Friends of the Arts, John Dowdall Theater Safety & Access Project, (Polson)  
Renovation and safety improvements to John Dowdall Theater, home of the Port Polson Players and used for other cultural and arts activities. Total renovation estimated to cost \$81,700.

**2002 Grant Awards: \$150,000**

- \$50,000 Conrad Mansion Directors, Inc, Conrad Mansion roof replacement, (Kalispell)
- \$29,000 Childrens’ Museum of Montana, Interior and Accessibility Improvements, (Great Falls)
- \$50,000 Livingston Depot Foundation, Livingston Depot Center Structural Repair and Roof Replacement, (Livingston)
- \$21,000 Phillips County Historical Society, Robinson House Landscape Project, (Malta)

**2001 Grant Awards: \$150,000**

- \$30,000 Northwest Montana Historical Society/Central School Museum – Timber Products Industry History Exhibit, Kalispell
- \$43,415 Huntley Project Museum of Irrigated Agriculture – Completing

main museum facility construction and improvements, Huntley  
Project  
\$76,585 Richland Youth Hockey, Inc. – completing construction of an  
community and regional event center, Sidney

**2000 Grant Awards: \$150,000**

\$50,000 Daly Mansion Preservation Trust – Daly Mansion Restoration Project,  
Hamilton  
\$30,000 Miracle of America Museum, Inc. – Museum Building Improvements,  
Polson  
\$30,000 World Museum of Mining – The Orphan Girl Underground Exhibit,  
Butte  
\$20,000 Friends of Makoshika – Makoshika Group Picnic Shelter, Glendive  
\$20,000 Hill County H. Earl Clack Museum, Wahkpa Chu'gn Archeological  
Site Improvements, Havre

**1999 Grant Awards: \$200,000**

\$73,677 Rialto Community Theatre, Inc. -- Rialto Theatre  
Infrastructure Improvements, Deer Lodge  
\$61,600 Blaine County Wildlife Museum/Blaine County Museum -- Wildlife  
Museum Building Improvements, Chinook  
\$24,000 Billings Preservation Society, Inc./Moss Mansion -- Carriage House  
Reconstruction, Billings  
\$20,361.50 Twin Bridges Historical Association -The Reid Building Renovation  
Museum & Archival Library, Twin Bridges  
\$20,361.50 Friends of Savenac -- Historic Savenac Nursery Infrastructure  
Restoration, Haugan

**1998 Grant Awards: \$150,000**

\$56,105 Cascade County Historical Society-High Plains West Heritage  
Museum and Archives, Great Falls  
\$48,850 Makoshika State Park Amphitheater Renovation, Friends of  
Makoshika, Glendive  
\$45,000 Old Montana Prison 1912 Cell House Roof Replacement, Deer Lodge

**1997 Grant Awards: \$199,160**

\$55,000 Seeley/Swan Historical Museum and Visitor's Center, Seeley Lake  
Chamber of Commerce, Seeley Lake  
\$44,026 Peaks to Plains Museum, Carbon County Historical Society, Red  
Lodge

\$38,435	Reconstruction of Historic Fort Benton, Fort Benton Restoration Committee, Fort Benton
\$37,000	ZooMontana: Plains Habitat Display - Initial Phase, Billings
\$24,699	Old Trail Museum -- Exhibit Upgrade, Completion and Infrastructure Stabilization, Choteau

**1996 Grant Awards: \$350,000**

\$95,500	Fort Peck Theater - Electrical System Upgrade, Fort Peck Fine Arts Council, Inc, Fort Peck
\$66,968	Montana Wildlife Rehabilitation Center & Nature Park, Mikal Kellner Foundation for Animals, Helena
\$60,000	Restoration of Virginia City's Hangmans Building, Virginia City Preservation Alliance, Virginia City
\$50,000	Yellowstone Art Museum - Expansion and Renovation, Billings.
\$47,532	Chief Plenty Coups House Interior Stabilization, Friends of Chief Plenty Coups, Pryor.
\$30,000	Charlie Russell Chew Choo Tour Train - Facility Improvements, Lewistown Chamber of Commerce

**1995 Grant Awards: \$320,000**

\$200,000	Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center, Great Falls
\$50,000	New Phillips County Museum Facility, Phillips County Historical Society, Malta
\$50,000	Mission Center visitor facility, St. Mary's Mission, Stevensville
\$20,000	Recovery/Restoration Indian Pictographs at Pictograph Caves State Park, Yellowstone Western Heritage Center, Billings

**Total TIIP Grant Awards: \$2,068,010**